

# MERCURY BAY SOUTH RESIDENTS' & RATEPAYERS' ASSN. (INC.).



## **MBSRRA Committee Meeting**

**5 Voyager Rd Cooks Beach**

**4:00pm. 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

### **Present/Welcome**

**Warm Welcome** to guests

**Apologies:** Graeme Lomas, Tom Riddle, Paul Hopkins

### **Minutes from last meeting**

### **Matters arising**

- Security Cameras Report back from Paulette and Cyndy
- Road Safety Letter presented to Council

Purangi Road speed – scheduled to be workshopped with new Council on speed limits around the Coromandel. Recommendation to Council that a similar process is followed for consistency.

Cooks Beach to Ferry Landing should have a 50km speed limit – it is extremely unsafe with people driving at speeds as high as 120km. It raises the inconsistencies across the district with judder bars at Hahei and a long 50km stretch at Hahei, while nothing is done at Cooks Beach.

Councillor Fox is going to be Council rep on these types of issues – he notes there are local roads and State Highways. Doesn't want to see State Highways mixed with Local Roads. Sees speed limits as dictating the level of maintenance and standards of road

Policing of our roads needs to be improved. Consider utilising speed cameras. This has not been raised with the Police at this time.

Head on accidents are occurring at Hot Water Beach because visitors to the area are not used to the roads.

Matt Busch noted that Council ultimately make the decision on speed limits, but there are rules and guidelines to be considered, with the opportunity for NZTA to step in if a posted speed limit is considered unsafe. He advised that if setting a lower speed limit, the road needs something in place to make it seem like that is a lower speed area. Narrowing lanes, flush medians and other options can be used to support the posted speed limit.

- Erosion Consents have been granted for the backstop wall at Cooks Beach and therefore work has been confirmed to start on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This work will take approximately three weeks with completion planned for 13 December 2019.

[Erosion Updates](#)

**Cooks Beach** completed prior to Christmas period. Further information requests received from WRC, primarily around the sand push up portion of the consent. Looking at staging the consenting process to enable the backstop wall to be progressed pre-Xmas.

Budget after Purangi erosion work will be limited. There is a possibility that the groynes could be completed, but no budget for wall. Budget request would need to be included in the Long-Term Plan process. Installation of the groynes could be an opportunity to see how the groynes work prior to the sand wall installation.

- Front Beach Toilets
- Traffic on Front Beach
- Water Soil Testing (regarding Freedom Campers)

- **Pontoon Lighting and sealing of Front Entrance**

Purangi Boat Ramp access sealing – waiting for Heritage NZ approval prior to engaging contractors.

- **Signage**

Request is the catalyst for Council to review all signage. A review of signage from Whenuakite to Ferry Landing to look at directing people to the visitor attractions, keeping in mind compliance is an option. A wider review will provide information on budget requirements to implement agreed outcomes. Mercury Bay South as proposal has been reviewed (heritage signs from Paul Hopkins). Several of the proposed signs are inconsistent with national standards. Some historic signs could be installed, but several the other signs proposed do not meet the guidelines.

Points raised

## **Correspondence**

Inwards

Outwards

## **Financial Report**

*Income*

*Expenditure*

## General Business

### **Summer Focus - Freedom Camping, parking, compliance**

Brian Taylor gave an overview of monitoring and compliance in the Mercury Bay South area

#### **Compliance and Monitoring**

60% recovery of infringements. Unpaid goes to the courts, for recovery, approx 20% remain unpaid.

#### **Freedom Camping**

There will be a compliance officer in Mercury Bay South over the whole summer period. Last year was a trial year and it worked well. The only reason a compliance officer would be called away would be for a serious dog attack incident.

Staff are working with WRC to progress the consent.

Flaxmill – public meeting held to show community a new proposal that differs from the original rock wall concept.

Funding for Freedom camping pilot has enabled Council to employ 6 ambassadors for the peak period. One ambassador will be assigned to MB South. The ambassador role will be to educate. Ambassadors will be doing rounds in the evenings, handing out education information and; in the event of illegal camping being seen, will send them to an appropriate commercial campground or out of the District.

Still issues with smaller campers which are technically self-contained being on sold between visitors.

Council is aware that neighbours are not happy with the situation at Purangi. The numbers using the Purangi area are compounded by the lack of Freedom Camping at Hahei and Hot Water Beach.

Freedom Camping bylaw is up for review early new year. Government legislation does not allow a blanket ban. It was noted that the first Council bylaw was successfully appealed.

At the time of the original bylaw, there would have been evidence of the impact to visitors to Hot Water Beach and Hahei, which would have supported the prohibition of freedom camping in those areas. The people of Cooks Beach are proud of their area. They believe that freedom campers don't give back to the community and the ratepayer covers the cost of infrastructure that they are using. Brian Taylor noted that freedom campers do contribute to the District economy but shouldn't impact on the local community in a non-positive way.

- **CBD**

Upgrades reviewing parking and pedestrian parking Cooks Beach pedestrian crossing – design should have been forwarded through for consultation. Proposal is for widening on opposite side of road from the shop where people park with boats, cut a pedestrian access through the garden/island area and access into the commercial area. Where vehicles are currently parking berms are being damaged so widening will assist. Cut through of the garden will improve access to the commercial area.

- **Subs**

How do we get more traction with this

- **Recruitment of new members**

- Review of Tuia 250 ( Tabled by John Steele )

Meeting Closed

Next Meeting Date and Venue

